

Message Text

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70

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AGR-20 RSC-01 AID-20 EB-11 EUR-25 COME-00

ISO-00 TRSE-00 SWF-02 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

SPC-03 SAM-01 OIC-04 HEW-08 OMB-01 IGA-02 DRC-01 /191 W

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R 281621Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3486

UNCLAS ROME 2849

FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, IT

SUBJ: FAO DG APPEAL CONCERNING FERTILIZER PRODUCTION

1. FODAG TODAY RECEIVED COPY FOLLOWING FAO MESSAGE OF FEB. 22 TO THE SECRETARY AND APPROPRIATE MINISTER IN ALL EXPORTING COUNTRIES:

/QUOTE/ DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD SITUATION PARTICULARLY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHICH REMAINS CRITICAL DESPITE LAST SEASONS GOOD CROPS. WITH STOCKS FURTHER DEPLETED AND RISING CONSUMPTION, AN EVEN BIGGER INCREASE IN WORLD FOOD OUTPUT WILL BE REQUIRED IN 1974 THAN ACHIEVED IN 1973 TO MEET NORMAL REQUIREMENTS. CURRENT SPRING CROP PROSPECTS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE ALREADY CLOUDED BY SERIOUS SHORTFALLS IN FERTILIZER AND RAW MATERIAL SUPPLIES AND THEIR MUCH HIGHER PRICES. IT IS ESSENTIAL TO STRENGTHEN THE SELF-RELIANCE OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND PROMOTE A MAJOR EXPANSION IN THEIR FOOD PRODUCTION IN 1974/75 IN VIEW OF THE SHARPLY REDUCED FOOD AID AVAILABILITIES, THEIR BALANCE OF PAYMENT DIFFICULTIES AND THE VERY HIGH WORLD FOODGRAIN PRICES. I AM THEREFORE URGENTLY REQUESTING GOVERNMENTS OF EXPORTING COUNTRIES TO MAINTAIN AND EXPAND

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FERTILIZER PRODUCTION AND CONSIDER USING THEIR GOOD OFFICES

TO ENCOURAGE EXPORTERS TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO CONTINUE DELIVERIES
TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN SIMILAR OVERALL RATIOS AS IN PREVIOUS
YEARS AND EXPAND FERTILIZER AID PROGRAMS AS FAR AS POSSIBLE.
WOULD APPRECIATE INDICATION ACTION YOUR GOVERNMENT CAN TAKE.
I AM NOT PUBLICIZING THIS APPEAL AT PRESENT BUT WILL REFER TO IT
WHEN CONSULTING FERTILIZER INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES DURING
FERTILIZER INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING NEXT WEEK.
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE WILL DISCUSS FERTILIZER PROGRAMS IN APRIL
AND I INTEND CONVENING FIRST SESSION OF COMMITTEE ON FERTILIZERS
IN JUNE TO EXAMINE SHORT AND LONGER TERM PROSPECTS WORLD FER-
TILIZER SUPPLIES AND CONSIDER APPROPRIATE ACTION, BUT MEET
IMMEDIATE CRISIS REQUIRES INITIATIVES BY GOVERNMENTS. HIGHEST
CONSIDERATION. BOERMA DIRGEN FAO UNQUOTE

2. FAO STATES EXACT DATES JUNE COMMISSION SESSION NOT YET
DETERMINED. VOLPE

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